

Appl'n No: 10/528,686
Amdt dated June 19, 2007
Reply to Office action of March 19, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement sheet of drawings, including Figures 2 and 4, replaces the previously submitted sheet of drawings including Figures 2 and 4. More specifically, Applicant has amended Figures 2 and 4. The replacement sheet has been clearly labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header.

Attachment: 1 Replacement Sheet of drawings including Figures 2 and 4

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 8, 13, and 14 are pending in the application. Claims 2-6 and 9-12 have been cancelled. Claims 13 and 14 have been added. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended. Claims 1, 13, and 14 are in independent form.

Specification

The specification has been amended to clarify terminology set forth in the application as filed. Applicant attests that no new matter has been added thereto.

Drawings

Applicant has attached 1 replacement sheet of drawings hereto directly following these Remarks. The replacement sheet has been labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header as per 37 C.F.R. §1.121(d).

In amended Figure 2, reference character 14 has been replaced with reference character 19 to correspond with the description in paragraph [0013] of the specification. Additionally, reference character 34 now identifies the second assist springs 34, as described in paragraph [0014] of the specification. Further, reference character 52 has been added to identify the upper portion 52 of the rear leg 50, as described in paragraph [0017] of the specification.

In amended Figure 4, reference character 19 now identifies the first assist spring 19, as described in paragraph [0013] of the specification. Additionally, reference character 52 has been added to identify the upper portion 52 of the rear leg 50, as described in paragraph [0017] of the specification.

Applicant attests that no new matter has been added thereto.

Double Patenting

1. The Examiner states "that should claim 2 be found allowable, claim 12 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof." In response, Applicant has cancelled claim 12. Thus, the rejection of claim 12 is moot.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. Claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent 5,636,884 to Ladetto et al. ("the '884 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has cancelled claims 2, 9, and 12.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 6-8, 10, and 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 2, 3, and allowable claim 6.

Claims 7 and 8 depend from amended claim 1 and, as such, are construed to incorporate by reference all of the limitations of claim 1, *see* 35 U.S.C. §112, fourth paragraph.

Additionally, Applicant has added independent claim 13 which includes all of the limitations of claims 1, 9, and allowable claim 10.

Further, Applicant has added independent claim 14 which includes all of the limitations of claims 1, 9, and allowable claim 11.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) of claims 1, 2, 9, and 12 as being anticipated by the '884 reference be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

5. Claims 3 and 4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the '884 reference in view of U.S. Patent 5,711,505 to Nemoto ("the '505 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has cancelled claims 3 and 4. Thus, the rejection of claims 3 and 4 is moot.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claims 3 and 4 as being unpatentable over the '884 reference in view of the '505 reference be withdrawn.

6. Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the '884 reference and the '505 reference, as applied to claims 3 and 4, in view of U.S. Patent 4,707,030 to Harding ("the '030 reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Applicant has cancelled claim 5. Thus, the rejection of claim 5 is moot.

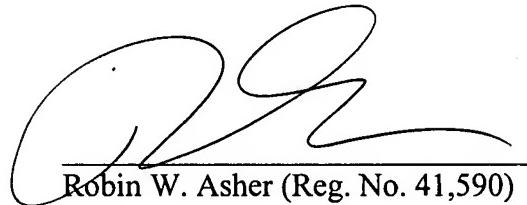
Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of claim 5 as being unpatentable over the '884 reference and the '505 reference, as applied to claims 3 and 4, in view of the '030 reference be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or the patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-1759. A duplicate of this form is attached.

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Respectfully submitted,



Robin W. Asher (Reg. No. 41,590)
Clark Hill PLC
500 Woodward Avenue, Suite 3500
Detroit, MI 48226-3435
(313) 965-8300

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